



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

Phone: (860) 827-2935 Fax: (860) 827-2950

E-Mail: [siting.council@po.state.ct.us](mailto:siting.council@po.state.ct.us)

Web Site: [www.ct.gov/csc](http://www.ct.gov/csc)

October 8, 2004

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: S. Derek Phelps, Executive Director

RE: **DOCKET NO. 272** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

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The following is a statement of Pamela Katz, Chairman of the Connecticut Siting Council. This statement was presented during the Reliability and Operability Committee (ROC) conference call of today, October 8, 2004. This statement was read by me.

“The need to improve the electricity grid in Connecticut is clear and compelling. There was ample evidence to that point provided within the body of the Phase I proceeding. That need continues to exist today.

“In light of that condition, my colleagues and I on the Siting Council have acted to expedite this Phase II proceeding at every turn. I believe there is ample evidence to that effect.

“In light of those facts, I feel compelled to express my frustration today in so far as several key points are concerned. First, I was dismayed recently when I read in a newspaper article published last week, from persons speaking for one of the applicants, an assertion that Connecticut ratepayers would potentially have to absorb substantial costs associated with the Phase II project because the Siting Council will potentially take additional time to decide this docket. Frankly, I consider this to be ironic considering that the Council as of today is still waiting to receive the final ROC Reports.

“While I have agreed to continue hearings on certain specified matters, the truth is, that until these reports are received with adequate information concerning route configuration and how much of the design may be built underground, we are otherwise unable to continue with this proceeding in any way that is productive or beneficial to those involved.

“Simply put, while we are more than one year into this docket proceeding this Council continues to be handicapped with a flawed application and an incomplete record.

“To be candid, I am deeply concerned that the hesitation thus far to issue the ROC Report is based in large part on the fact that the material that is presently in the hands of the applicants contains definitive bad news concerning undergrounding -- and if that is so, I would far prefer to get the bad news out in the open, on the table, and into the record. Clearly, this would better serve all the participants involved in the proceeding as well as the citizens of Connecticut, whose interests are potentially at stake. Moreover, this would permit our consultant, KEMA, Inc., the time to examine the technical merits of this data and would help serve to continue to move this docket in a forward direction. Clearly, further delay works against everyone’s goals while the electricity grid continues to grow less reliable.

“Lastly, at this point I wish to state that the Council needs assurance that completion of the ROC Report is a priority of the highest levels of management of the transmission departments at the utilities. Frankly, based upon participation in the conference calls, I don’t have that assurance at this time.”